

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

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R 272151Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY SANA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
AUGUST 27, 1975:

Q. CAN YOU SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE REPORT THAT AMERICAN
WARSHIPS WERE PROMISED BY DR. KISSINGER TO THE ISRAELIS
TO ESCORT OIL IN CASE OF AN EMBARGO OR OTHER PROBLEMS?

A. I WOULD LIKE TO RECALL THAT THE SECRETARY HAS
REPEATEDLY SAID THAT AS THE MEDIATOR, HE CANNOT AND WILL
NOT COMMENT ON THE MANY SPECULATIVE STORIES ON THE
DETAILS OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL
OR ON THE DISCUSSIONS THE UNITED STATES IS HAVING WITH
EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

WITH REGARD TO THIS PARTICULAR STORY, I WILL ONLY SAY, JUST
SO THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, THAT THE SUBJECT OF
ISRAEL'S OIL SUPPLIES IS BEING DISCUSSED, BUT NO FINAL
DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE.

NOW, AS TO SPECULATION ABOUT U.S. MILITARY ESCORT IN THE
EVENT OF AN EMBARGO, THAT REPORT IS TOTALLY INACCURATE.
THE UNITED STATES IS UNDERTAKING NO MILITARY COMMITMENTS
AS PART OF THIS AGREEMENT.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE SECOND PART OF THE BOSTON GLOBE STORY
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SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD EVEN USE THEIR OWN
RESERVES OF OIL TO PROVIDE SOME --

A. THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ISRAEL'S OIL SUPPLIES IS BEING
DISCUSSED, BUT NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE.

Q. LET'S JUST SEE IF WE CAN POSSIBLY CLARIFY THIS POINT.
I UNDERSTOOD IT WAS THE UNITED STATES' POSITION THAT
THE UNITED STATES WOULD ASSURE ISRAEL OF THE DELIVERY OF
OIL IN PLACE OF THE ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS. AND DOES
THAT IMPLY ASSURANCE THAT DELIVERIES WILL REACH ISRAEL
WITHOUT ANY EXPLICIT DISTINCTION, AS YOU ARE MAKING HERE,
AS TO WHETHER THERE ARE OR ARE NOT MILITARY PROTECTION

COMMITMENTS CONCERNING DELIVERIES?

A. MY ANSWER REMAINS THE SAME. FIRST, I HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE SUBJECT OF ISRAEL'S OIL SUPPLIES IS BEING DISCUSSED BUT NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. AND SECONDLY, AS FAR AS PROVIDING ANY U.S. MILITARY ESCORT, AS REPORTED IN THAT STORY THAT I WAS ASKED ABOUT, I AM STATING VERY CLEARLY THAT WE ARE UNDERTAKING NO MILITARY COMMITMENTS AS PART OF THIS AGREEMENT.

Q. ON THE SUPPLY OF OIL, HAS THE SUBJECT OF WHETHER U.S. SHIPS MIGHT BE USED TO TAKE OIL TO ISRAEL BEEN DISCUSSED?

A. I AM JUST NOT ABLE TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID.

Q. BOB, CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THE AID PROGRAM FOR THE NEAR EAST COUNTRIES HAS BEEN DRAFTED AND READY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE CONGRESS?

A. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IF AND WHEN AN INTERIM AGREEMENT IS REACHED WE WILL THEN PROCEED TO DETERMINE AID LEVELS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THEY WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS.

Q. THEN WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY WILL BE SUBMITTED, IN SEPTEMBER OR WHEN?

A. I ASSUME THEY WILL BE SUBMITTED EXPEDITIOUSLY. INGERSOLL
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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